Compulsory Motherhood, Paternalistic State?

“Oleksandra Tarkhanova makes a significant contribution to the growing body of research on the intersection of neoliberal reforms, conservative anti-gender ideology and women’s status in the countries of Eastern Europe. Her pioneering feminist analysis of the Ukrainian welfare state is based on a thorough investigation of social policy debates and legislation in the country from independence to the post-Maidan era. The current culture war on ‘gender ideology’ makes her findings relevant beyond the Ukrainian case.”

—Tatiana Zhurzhenko, *Lecturer at the University of Vienna, Austria*

“Essential reading for scholars of gender and social policy studies in Eastern Europe, this book is an exciting intervention in feminist critiques of the effects of neoliberalism on the gender dimensions of social policy debates in post-socialist states. Tarkhanova’s diachronic perspective, tracking gender policy in Ukraine from 1985 to 2017, provides crucial insights for understanding ‘anti-gender,’ anti-feminist movements in contemporary Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Key policy areas under focus are family law and state welfare, the Labor Code, and women’s rights and gender equality. Crucially, Tarkhanova draws on her extended Ukrainian case study to engage with broad feminist critiques of neoliberalism, extending the case’s relevance far beyond discussions of gender policy in Central and East Europe.”

—Sarah D. Phillips, *Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute, Indiana University, USA*

Oleksandra Tarkhanova

Compulsory Motherhood, Paternalistic State?

Ukrainian Gender Politics and
the Subject of Woman

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To my mother

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